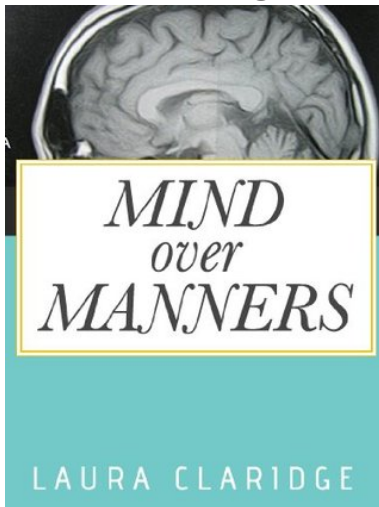


## Laura Claridge's *Mind Over Manners*



Laura Claridge was born in Clearwater, Florida in 1952. Claridge is an American author, most recognized for her biographies of major 20<sup>th</sup> century figures, including painter Tamara De Lempicka, Norman Rockwell and our own Emily Post. Additionally, Laura has been a frequent contributor to newspapers such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Vogue*, *The Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. She has also appeared repeatedly on NBC, CNN, BBC, CSPAN, and NPR.

Notably, Claridge's work on the American icon, *Emily Post: Daughter of the Gilded Age, Mistress of American Manners*, was well received, awarding her a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 2005 and the J. Anthony Lukas Prize for a Work in Progress in 2006. P.J. O'Rourke, author of *Modern Manners: An Etiquette Book for Rude People* praised the biography: "It was the genius of Emily Post to show us that manners are the small coin of mortality...Emily Post became perhaps the most important and certainly the most influential moralist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is Laura Claridge's genius to explain the surprising and improbable background and equally amazing personality of Emily Post."

Laura was in the midst of writing this work when she was diagnosed with primary CNS lymphoma, an aggressive and rare form of brain cancer in the fall of 2003. Six months later, she could barely remember anything about Emily Post. Throughout her struggle, Claridge used Emily Post as a source of strength: "Having Emily around gave me an automatic place to return any time I lost a sense of my structure." [\[i\]](#) She clung to

